

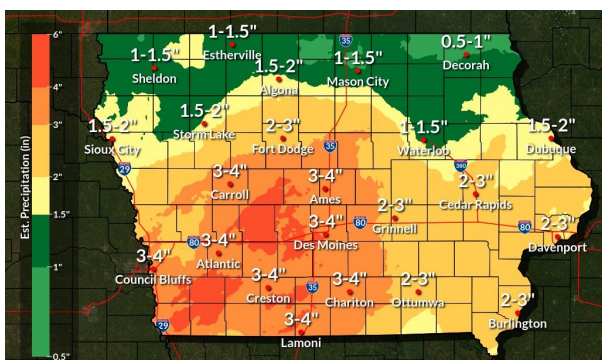


The Weather Whisper

Much Needed Rain Helps Improve Drought

Kenny Podrazik, Meteorologist

During the last week of October, a pair of long duration rain events dropped widespread rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches across the southern two-thirds of the state while the northern third saw on average around one inch (See Figure 1). The first rain event began late Saturday night, October 23rd, over western Iowa and spread across the rest of the state during the early morning hours Sunday the 24th. Once the rain developed, it continued throughout the day Sunday and into the evening hours before finally tapering off in eastern Iowa around midnight Sunday night. The highest storm total reported was 4.19 inches in Murray (See table on right). Another soaker rain occurred on Thursday, October 28th and brought another 1-3 inches of rainfall to the state. With Severe Drought conditions plaguing portions of central and northern Iowa and Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought impacting most locations north of Interstate 80, these long duration soaker rains helped improve these drought conditions. In fact, the rainfall helped shrink the Moderate to Severe Drought ridden locations just over 10% of the D1-D4 areas (See Figure 2) and which was generally located along and south of Highway 30. One thing to note is that the latest Drought Monitor does not include the second rainfall amounts and thus the drought is likely to shrink even further with the November 4th release.



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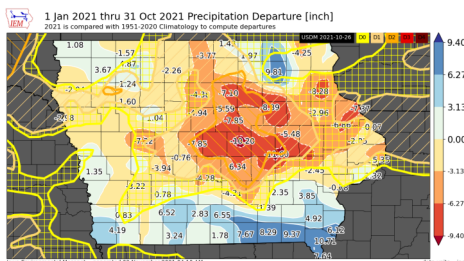
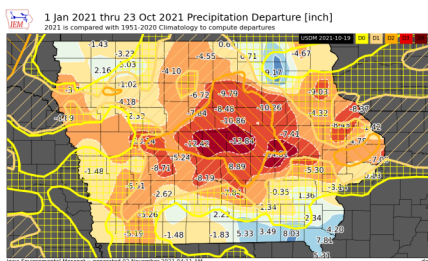
Figure 1: Radar estimated precipitation from October 23 to November 1, 2021.

Special points of interest

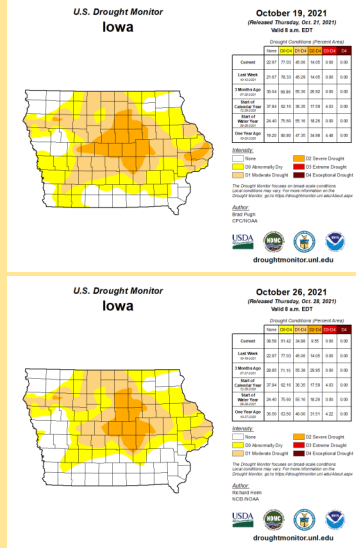
- Much needed rain improves drought conditions
- Winter Weather Preparedness

Highest Rainfall Amounts from October 24, 2021

Location	Total
Murray	4.19"
Bedford	3.70"
Cromwell	3.67"
New Market	3.66"
Montour	3.55"
Ankeny	3.50"



Figures 2a (left) and 2b (right): Precipitation departure since January 1, 2021 through October 23rd or 25th with the Drought Monitor overlaid. Images courtesy of [Iowa Environmental Mesonet](https://www.iaenvironmental.com/).



Figures 3a/3b top/bottom: Drought Monitor released on October 19th and October 26th shows a good improvement in the drought conditions.

Rain Helps Improve Drought...

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Even though areas within the D1-D4 locations received some much needed rainfall amounts, it was still not enough to completely erase the drought conditions. For example, the drought has really set in across these locations over the past 12 months and with such a lack of significant rainfall during a long period, it would take much more precipitation to get back to near normal amounts and thus likely out of drought. Going back to the beginning of 2021 (See Figures 3a/3b), the late October rainfall events did help with bringing many locations back to normal or even above normal for precipitation so far this year, especially over southern Iowa. Unfortunately, in the locations of the Severe Drought conditions, the deficit of rainfall has been significant enough that much more precipitation is needed to get closer to normal.

Winter Weather Preparedness

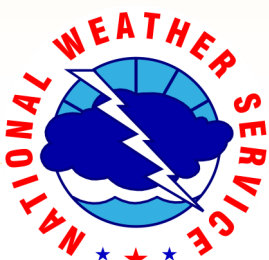
Kenny Podrazik, Meteorologist

Winter is on our doorstep and before we know it, we'll have snow on the ground or be experiencing sub-zero wind chills. Iowa winters can be brutal and long and that's why you need to prepare for the worst conditions now. It's up

to YOU to prepare yourself and your family for the harshest of winter conditions, especially if you plan to travel this winter. One thing that is highly recommended to make your winter travel much safer is to create a winter survival travel kit. If you already have one, it's time to replenish it and make sure all the items are working and accounted for in the kit. A great (minimum) list is on the graphic to the left, but it's also recommended to pack required medicine, baby supplies, or any other items that might be needed in case you get stranded.

Another way to prepare for the winter months is to get acquainted with various phone apps or websites that provide winter travel tips, latest road conditions, and fresh forecasts. Here are a few recommended trustworthy sites to save on your mobile device, but it's up to you to find what works best for you:

- * 511ia.org
- * weather.gov/dmx/winterysafety
- * Mobile.weather.gov
- * Iowa State Patrol



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